

The Oregonian.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, JULY 26, 1886

TREES, MOUNTAINS AND RAINFALL

A bill is before congress to reserve from sale extensive tracts covered with timber about the head waters of the Columbia and Missouri rivers. The idea is that the timber in that region is the principal cause of the rain and snow fall, and that preservation of it is necessary, in order that the volume of water in the streams may not be diminished.

It would be erroneous to say that the timber there is no effect whatever on precipitation, but it is equally true that the effect, if it could be measured at all, would be a most insipidable.

The mountains, not the timber, produce the precipitation, and growth of timber is a consequence of the precipitation, instead of precipitation being a cause of the growth of timber.

The conditions are not unlike those prevailing here. Our mountains cause our rainfall, and timber grows in consequence of it. It is every stick of timber growing in Western Oregon and Western Washington we can strip away, it is not probable that the rainfall would be perceptibly diminished.

High mountains are the great condensers of watery vapors, and where there are high mountain chains, like those of the Rocky and Cascade ranges, precipitation is controlled by them. It is observable that it is only in the greater elevations of the Rocky mountain than that the precipitation is considerable enough to form large rivers and to give growth to heavy bodies of timber. Snake river, the Missouri, the Yellowstone and the Big Horn all take their rise in one of these elevated regions of the Rocky mountains. Both north and south of the region where these great streams have their common source the mountains break down, the elevation then becoming in a great distance, there are few considerable streams.

There is no doubt, however, that increase of rainfall is one of the results of growth of timber and cultivation of the soil. In a country of valleys and plains this is often apparent. By the time the winds of ocean have passed over our Cascade range they are comparatively dry. The rain nearly all falls on the western slopes of the range, hence abundance of timber on the western and absence of it on the eastern slopes. It is, however, we should destroy all our timber on the western slopes we should still get about as much rain as now, because the rainfall in such a situation is controlled by the working of the greater forces of nature. But where these greater forces are absent, in the interior country of valleys and plains, there, as experience has shown, tree-planting and the plow will gradually increase the precipitation.

THE CALIFORNIA MUDDLE.

The action of the governor of California in calling a special session of the legislature of that state has brought about a curious module of the senatorial question. Since the death of Miller, the legislature has been holding by adjournment. Until Friday night, when it was adjourned, it was, of course, unenacted. Now, however, it is to be held under the law, the seat became vacant as soon as the legislature convened, and this judgment is probably correct. That the legislature will now elect him is little doubt, though the governor holds that it cannot lawfully do so.

But this statement of the situation does not sound the whole depth of the muddle in California. The fragmentary term, which Heart supposed he would fill out, will expire next March. Then the seat at term of six years will begin to run. The *Chronicle* says a plan is broached to elect him to that session, not only for the term of six years, but for a full term, exceeding it. The object would be to make possible his election as a senator for the full term, but this would appear to be impracticable, and, in fact, illegal, since the next regular session of the California legislature will open in January, 1857—two months before the expiration of the senatorial term, and the legislature, therefore, will have time to elect in regular order before the senatorial term begins.

No "snag" judgment in such a matter would avail, and the party attempting it would certainly lose thereby all its chances of gaining success in the usual way. But the *Chronicle* evidently thinks there is something in it, since it denounces, in vigorous terms, what it calls "a conspiracy to snare a seat in the senate of the United States."

ARISTOCRATIC PREJUDICE.

Nearly ninety years elapsed after the death of Burns, the greatest poet of the people, and the poor, before his name was printed in Westminster Abbey. Burns lived at a time when his name was held in high esteem, when his extraordinary intellectual merit was freely acknowledged.

He was, not like Shakespeare and Milton, one who had to trust to posterity for his lasting fame. Why then, when lesser lights, including our own Longfellow, the poet of a country that had no literature, when Burns died, have been recognized as worthy of memorial honors, did Burns wait so long for a place in Westminster Abbey? The answer is that Burns in his day, was a democrat in politics, a satirist of the nobility and the church, and, because he never forgot he was born a peasant, always dedicated his genius to the defense and exaltation of the primitive rights of the people, as contrasted with the acquired aristocratical rights of caste, class and ancestry. He was, no doubt, a democrat that he did not live to see the cause of the French revolution, the *Glory of France*, the degenerate and impure march of history, and he who did not live to see the triumph of the people, but this he did.

The first great English poet, pre-eminent among the poets of the people, the crown of the people's poets, the crown of the English literature, has not yet been erected to Westminster Abbey, the greatest soldier and statesman of English history. English literature has long ago done Cromwell justice, but the ruling class still refuse him a place in the pantheon. Marlborough, Nelson and Washington are all splendidly remembered, because they fought for the crown, but Cromwell is without recognition because he fought against the crown, for the people and his own hand. The tyrant Charles the First is still despised in the English prayer book as "Our Blest King." No wonder a nobility that refuses Cromwell a monument should be loath to place the bust of Burns in Westminster Abbey, should exclude Byron and Shelley from the poet's corner. A statue of Burns was placed in Central park, New York city, a dozen years before he was honored in England. The democratic temper of our people was prompt to name Burns for statutory honor, because he was peculiarly the bard of democracy and equal rights under law. Blinded to the banquets of the great, because of the overwhelming power and vanity of his contemporaries, he never sold himself for a picture book, or rolled in the dirt at the feet of his condescending host. He brought his manly heart away from the company of lords unspoiled and un-

spoiled by the flattery of the court. He boldly sat at the table of the Queen, but his soul was proof against her blandishments. He came from a gallant man to the following board and lackey of a lord. The king of Burns clung the ruling class in England long after he was dust, and it took ten almost a century to forgive the peasant who refused to be a flunkie and who placed them all in pillory in his mortal verse. Burns needs no monument, for the world reads him and holds him as one.

In whose wide brain the feeling deep
That struggled on the many's tongue
Swells to a tide of thought
Or the weak throats of wrong

THE LAWS DELAY

When certain parties once proposed to sue the Elevated railroad company, Cyrus W. Field said, "Remember you want twelve juries, while we want only one." This remark was revived in the public memory in the recent suit of the Bankers & Merchants' telegraph company for \$2,000,000 damages against the Western Union for cutting the wires Roscoe Conkling in his speech in this trial said that "the road is in his hands to keep to the right and to protect it. But expulsion of the Chinese is a duty to be instructed in this work and required to perform it. But expulsion of the Chinese is a duty to be instructed in this work and required to perform it. But expulsion of the Chinese is a duty to be instructed in this work and required to perform it."

The Chinese have now got to the point of urging that, as a means of getting rid of the Chinese, the laundry and vegetable business of its locality he turned over to the convicts of the Idaho penitentiary. It says that the convicts could easily be instructed in this work and required to perform it. But expulsion of the Chinese is a duty to be instructed in this work and required to perform it.

The usual vote of thanks was passed, the speaker presented a resolution, and then closed the institute as usual.

P. F. L. L. Columbus, North Dakota—Institute of Whitefeather returns fraternal greeting, with best wishes.

State July 21, 1886.

W. S. Jones, Spokane—The Institute of the orient sends greeting to the east on the 21st.

L. E. Holloman, North Dakota—Institute of the orient sends greeting to the east on the 21st.

North Dakota, July 21, 1886.

It is difficult to say what would have taken him to Seattle had not the county superintendent Jones so warmly insisted on the needs of the school system. He has received the following answer:

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course of study in the

second year.

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